

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR/Germany (Soviet Zone)

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SUBJECT Command Procedure for
Artillery Missions

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PLACE
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NO. OF ENCLS. 2
(LISTED BELOW) (A) & (B)

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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Assignment of Artillery Mission

1. When artillery units are assigned combat missions, the positions and potential power of the enemy are studied in order to assign the missions accurately. All types of reconnaissance, including patrols, aircraft and spies, are used to obtain precise information about the enemy, the disposition of his means of fire, supply installations, headquarters, and rear area installations. All the information is consolidated and is used to position targets on maps: these are the targets which the artillery must destroy in order to fulfill the given mission.
2. After a division commander has received his assignment from a higher commander, he briefs his staff on the instructions given for the fulfillment of the mission. He then visits the scene of potential action with his artillery commander, chief of staff, engineer, reconnaissance, chemical and operations officers. He requests an opinion from these assistants as to the best method of utilizing the terrain for conducting the operation required. After returning to his headquarters, the division commander makes his decision for the general plan of operations, and thereafter returns to the combat area with his regimental commanders in order to point out the disposition of their regiments, and to instruct them on the organization of observation points.

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3. When the regimental commanders have received their orders from the division commander they call their battalion and battery commanders to the area and plan the disposition of units and observation points necessary to the mission. After outlining the location of their units, the regimental commanders and their staffs continue to study the terrain, and plan their observation points and firing positions.
4. As soon as the division commander assigns the given mission for the divisional artillery to his artillery deputy, the deputy assigns concrete missions to each artillery regiment separately. The division artillery staff works out the overall fire plan, the detailed scheme of fire, and the firing allocation for each unit, and the plan for the displacement of combat positions. These plans as soon as they are completed are sent to each regiment for coordination and fulfillment.
5. After the regimental commanders have received the firing plans they assign missions to their staffs, who check the terrain, ascertain the targets, prepare detailed target reports, and select firing sectors and reference points for each battery separately.
/See Enclosures (A) and (B)/
6. While these data are being collected and the targets are pinpointed, the artillery personnel, as a rule, are occupied with setting up firing positions and observation posts. Each battery and battalion usually has two observation posts, one basic OP and one alternate OP.

Execution of Mission

7. Immediately after the target data have been prepared the battery commanders conduct the zeroing-in of targets, usually with one gun. Fire is directed from the OP, where reconnaissance men, telephone men and radiomen are located. The basic instrument for the observation of fire is a battery commander's scope in the OP. Upon having zeroed-in a target, the battery commander enters all fire direction and target data on a plotting chart, so that he can be ready to bring fire on different targets at the request of the senior commander. The plotting charts are located at every OP with the fire direction officer.
8. During firing, the OPs make all adjustments of fire. During breaks in firing, the reconnaissance men of the OP continue reconnaissance of their objectives and note changes in the reconnaissance journal which is located in each OP. In addition they report their observations to their unit commander.
9. Battery commanders may fire only upon those targets which are assigned to them in the firing plan. Only in exceptional cases, such as targets which immediately threaten the battery or are considered of primary necessity for destruction, may batteries fire on targets other than those assigned. Usually the battery commander must obtain the consent of a senior commander in order to fire on targets outside his sector.

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10. The division artillery commander, who is located in an OP with the division commander, receives the specific mission of the artillery; then from the overall fire plan, he decides which unit shall destroy the assigned target, and orders the respective regimental commander to neutralize the target, using either telephone or radio to transmit the message. The regimental commander in turn instructs a battalion commander to neutralize the target, the battalion commander checks his firing data, opens fire on the target, and after the target has been destroyed, reports back to the regimental commander approximately as follows: "Target No 1, a machine gun nest, has been destroyed - ammunition expended was eight rounds."
11. In order to utilize his artillery fully, a commander must constantly be aware of the disposition of units; ie, artillery fire can be used to best advantage and timed properly only after the commander has studied the disposition of his own units as well as those of the enemy.
12. Senior officers, particularly the division artillery deputy, must be in possession of all pertinent information in order to change the combat disposition of the artillery of any unit. In order to adjust fire on any particular position in a sector - each sector being allotted to a battery - the battery commander designates six or eight check points, the ranges of which have been established previously. These check points are given to each EM of a battery, so that the battery commander can assign fire on any one of the check points at any moment.
13. Generally targets are fired upon until they are completely eliminated. Also, as a rule, the fire direction officer enters all targets on the plotting board: the plotting board is his official account of the fire of the battery. Each gun commander has a fire adjustment card on which he enters all data given on the fire adjustment for targets, so that each gun can be checked for accuracy at any given moment.

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Enclosure (A): Example AAA Reconnaissance Plans
(B): Reconnaissance Plan

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Enclosure (A)

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Example AAA Reconnaissance Plans

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Reconnaissance plan of the 932d Sep AAA Bn, 57th Gds Rifle Div, for
22 August 1951, according to map _____, scale 1:50,000, dated 1948

| Objectives of Reconnaissance | Time | | Remarks |
|---|-------|--------|---|
| | Start | Finish | |
| Location of battalion CP, and disposition of command platoon and rear areas | 1800 | 1900 | Battalion reconnaissance chief is responsible for the execution of the reconnaissance mission |
| Approach routes to battalion CP and firing position areas of the batteries | 1900 | 2000 | |
| Firing position areas of the batteries, ground conditions, places for concealing vehicles, materials available for camouflage | 2000 | 2100 | |
| Battalion route to departure area | 2100 | 2200 | |

Note: The Chief of Reconnaissance will make a report of his findings
As regards the battalion route, he will
issue orders on direction of the Chief of Staff, (US counterpart, Executive Officer) and post traffic control personnel.

Commander, 932d Sep AAA Bn

Lt Col IVANOV

Chief of Staff (US counterpart, Executive Officer) 932d Sep AAA Bn

Maj MITYUSHIN

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Enclosure (B)

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Reconnaissance Plan
932d Separate Anti-Aircraft Battalion
57th Guards Rifle Division, 22 July 1951

Map, 1:50,000 - 1948

| Personnel of the reconnaissance echelon (group) | Responsibilitiy | Remarks |
|---|--|--|
| Battalion Commander - 1 off | Chooses area for battery firing positions | Reconnaissance starts at 1500 and ends at 1700 |
| Battery Commanders - 3 off | Choose areas for battery firing positions | The entire reconnaissance echelon follows in the vehicles of the battalion headquarters platoon. |
| One reconnaissance man from each battery | Selects places of concealment for battery prime movers | |
| Commander of the headquarters squad (also commander of the reconnaissance unit) | Determines sectors of fire for the defense of each battery | Senior commander is the commander of the first battery (Deputy to battalion commander) |
| Bn C of S or Bn Ren Off | Chooses reserve firing positions for the batteries | |
| Rear Services Officer | Chooses a location for supply installations | |
| Battery motor officer | Chooses a vehicle parking area | |

Commander, 932d Sep AAA Bn
Lt Col IVANOV

Chief of Staff (US Counterpart, Exec Officer) 932d Sep AAA Bn
Maj MITYUSHIN

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22 July 1951, No. _____

Officer's log book 34, pages 44-45

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